

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A wireless device that is adapted to communicate wirelessly with a class 1 device and a class 2 device, wherein the class 2 device is capable of communicating in a manner that is not compatible with the class 1 device, the wireless device comprising:

host logic;

an antenna; and

a medium access control (MAC) coupled the host logic and the antenna;

wherein the MAC causes the wireless device to emit a poll that is recognized differently by the class 1 device as compared to the class 2 device and causes the wireless device to operate for a reserved period of time in which the class 2 device can communicate in a manner that is not compatible with the class 1 device.

2. The wireless device of claim 1 wherein, during the reserved period of time, the class 2 device uses a preamble that does not comport with preambles associated with the class 1 device.

3. The wireless device of claim 1 wherein, following the reserved period of time, the MAC of the wireless device permits the class 1 device to communicate

4. The wireless device of claim 1 wherein, following the reserved period of time, the MAC of the wireless device permits the class 1 and class 2 devices to communicate in a manner that is compatible with the class 1 devices.

5 The wireless device of claim 1 wherein the class 1 device and the class 2 device each includes a unique address, and the poll includes a predetermined address that does not correspond to either of the addresses of the class 1 and class 2 devices and is interpreted by the class 1 device for the class 1 device to avoid initiating communications during the reserved period of time and is interpreted by the class 2 device as identifying the reserved period of time.

6. The wireless device of claim 1 wherein the wireless device comprises an access point.

7. A wireless network, comprising:
an access point;
a plurality of class 1 devices; and
a plurality of class 2 devices, wherein the class 2 devices are adapted to
communicate in a manner that is compatible with the class 1 devices and
also in a manner that is not compatible with the class 1 devices;
wherein the access point emits a multi-device class poll that causes the class 1
devices to remain off the network and permits the class 2 devices to

communicate for a period of time in a manner that is not compatible with the class 1 devices.

8. The wireless network of claim 7 wherein the period of time is determined from the multi-device class poll.

9. The wireless network of claim 7 wherein, following the period of time, the access point permits the class 1 devices to communicate on the network.

10. The wireless network of claim 7 wherein, following the period of time, the access point permits both class 1 and class 2 devices to communicate on the network.

11. The wireless network of claim 10 wherein, during the period of time, the class 2 devices communicate on the network using preambles that cannot be interpreted correctly by the class 1 devices, and wherein, following the period of time, the access point permits both class 1 and class 2 devices to communicate on the network using preambles that the class 1 devices can interpret.

12. The wireless network of claim 7 wherein each class 1 device comprises a unique address and the multi-device class poll includes a predetermined address that does not correspond to an address of any of the class 1 devices.

13. The wireless network of claim 12 wherein the predetermined address is interpreted by each class 2 device as signifying a beginning of the period of time.

14. The wireless network of claim 7 wherein, during the period of time, the class 2 devices use a preamble that does not comport with preambles associated with the class 1 devices.

15. A method, comprising:

during a specified time period, precluding a first plurality of devices from communicating on a wireless network;

during the specified time period, permitting a second plurality of devices to communicate on the wireless network via contention-based access while the first plurality of devices is precluded from communicating on the wireless network, wherein during the specified time period, the second plurality of devices is permitted to communicate in a manner that is incompatible with the first plurality of devices.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising emitting a poll that contains an address that does not correspond to any of the first plurality of devices.

17. The method of claim 15 further comprising emitting a poll that contains an address that does not correspond to any of the first plurality of devices and that is interpreted by the second plurality of devices as defining the specified time period

during which the second plurality of devices is permitted to communicate in a manner that is incompatible with the first plurality of devices.

18. The method of claim 15 further comprising, following the specified time period, permitting the first plurality of devices to communicate on the wireless network.

19. The method of claim 15 further comprising, following the specified time period, permitting the first plurality and second plurality of devices to communicate on the wireless network in a manner that is compatible with the first plurality of devices.